



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2011

Agencies to Conduct Emergency Towing System Exercise in Juneau

Who: Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Coast Guard, Survey Point Group, Princess Cruises

What: Emergency Towing System Exercise

When: Wednesday, July 20, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: AJ Dock and Juneau harbor

Contact: Ty Keltner, DEC Information Officer, (907) 465-5009
S. Kirby Day, Princess Cruises Director of Shore Operations, (907) 463-3900
Andrew Green, Survey Point Group, (907) 586-2279
Sarah Francis, United States Coast Guard, (907) 321-4501

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Coast Guard and Princess Cruises on behalf of the Alaska cruise ship industry will conduct an emergency towing system (ETS) exercise on the cruise ship Sapphire Princess on Wednesday, July 20, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the AJ Dock and in Juneau Harbor. The exercise will help develop the best procedures for deploying the ETS on cruise ships in emergency situations, and will help in developing one standard emergency towing system for all of Alaska.

A TEMSCO helicopter and the Amak Towing Company's tug, Kodiak King, will be part of the exercise. The companies are members of the Survey Point Group, an Alaska maritime industry network that provides vessels, helicopters and trained response personnel for emergencies.

Although commercial tugs have been used in Dutch Harbor with the ETS, this will be the first time a commercial helicopter has been used to transport the system to the tug, and the first time the system has been attached to a cruise ship.

Response officials will be on hand to answer questions on the emergency towing system and the exercise. Media is invited to attend, though limited space is available on the vessels.

For more information on DEC's Spill Prevention and Response Division, visit:
<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/index.htm>

For more on the US Coast Guard, visit:
<http://www.uscg.mil/>